



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

June 2, 2005

For immediate release

NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: Weekly beach monitoring data will be updated by Thursday afternoon each week. The information can be found at <http://www.iowadnr.com/> and by clicking the “Beach Monitoring” link on the left side.

- 1. Big Sioux River water quality plan underway**
- 2. Le Claire wastewater bypass reaches Mississippi River**
- 3. Public comments needed on water quality plan for Camp Creek**

BIG SIOUX RIVER WATER QUALITY PLAN UNDERWAY

SIOUX CENTER — If you live in Lyon, Osceola, Plymouth or Sioux counties, the DNR is asking for your help in improving the water quality of the Big Sioux River.

Bacteria levels are threatening the Big Sioux’s ability to support its designated uses—primary contact recreation like swimming and supporting aquatic life and wildlife. The DNR is asking for your input on how to improve the river’s water quality at three upcoming public meetings.

Much of the meetings will be dedicated to listening to local residents’ concerns and opinions regarding the river’s water quality. A short presentation on water monitoring results in the Big Sioux will also be offered.

If you have concerns and questions about the river’s water quality or ideas to improve it, please send those comments to the DNR by June 10. Your ideas and concerns will be addressed at the public meetings. Questions and comments can be submitted to Jerry Neppel at jerry.neppel@dnr.state.ia.us or at (515) 242-6149.

Following are the details of the three public input meetings:

Inwood: Friday, June 17, 1:30 p.m.
Vocational Agriculture classroom, West Lyon Community School,
1787 182nd Street
Sioux Center: Tuesday, June 21, 1:30 p.m.
Farmer's Cooperative basement meeting room
Hawarden: Tuesday, June 21, 7:30 p.m.
Hawarden Community Center, 1150 Central Avenue

The Big Sioux River is included on Iowa's 303(d) impaired waters list due to high levels of fecal coliform bacteria. The water quality improvement plan, also called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), will identify potential sources of the bacteria, investigate the severity of the problem, and suggest improvements to the river and land draining to the river that would reduce the amount of bacteria.

For more information, contact Jerry Neppel at 515-242-6149 or by e-mail at jerry.neppel@dnr.state.ia.us.

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LE CLAIRE WASTEWATER BYPASS REACHES MISSISSIPPI RIVER

LE CLAIRE — A ruptured sewer line Wednesday in Le Claire led to the bypass of approximately 145,000 gallons of raw sewage into the Mississippi River.

The ruptured line, located on Canal Shore Drive, was discovered around 11 a.m. Wednesday. City employees shut down three lift stations that feed the line while repairs were underway. Wastewater was pumped into trucks and transported to the wastewater treatment facility until repairs were completed around 7 p.m.

Downstream water users were notified, and the Davenport water plant planned on treating its drinking water source with chlorine for 24 hours after the repair.

For more information, contact Russell Royce at (319) 653-2135.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS NEEDED ON WATER QUALITY PLAN FOR CAMP CREEK

MITCHELLVILLE – The DNR is asking for ideas from local residents on how to improve water quality in Camp Creek in Polk County.

Residents can share their suggestions, comments and questions at a meeting Wednesday, June 15 in Mitchellville. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. at Mitchellville Elementary

School, 308 Elm Street NW. The meeting will also offer a short presentation on water monitoring results at Camp Creek.

Camp Creek is on the state's list of impaired waters due to sediment and nutrients that create conditions in the stream that are stressful to aquatic life. Excess sediment decreases the habitat available for fish and aquatic insects. Excess nutrients, particularly phosphorus, allow algae blooms that can deplete the dissolved oxygen in the stream and suffocate other aquatic life.

A water quality improvement plan, otherwise known as a TMDL, or Total Maximum Daily Load, has been developed for Camp Creek. The plan determines how much of a pollutant a water body can receive and still maintain its designated use such as maintaining aquatic life, allowing body contact such as swimming or being used as a drinking water supply. In the case of Camp Creek, excess sediment and nutrients are preventing the creek from meeting its designated use for sustaining aquatic life.

The plans also look at how water quality can be improved through conservation efforts and best management practices in the watershed. After receiving public comments, the plan will be forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for final approval.

The draft plan, or TMDL, will be made available for public comment on June 15. The plan will be available at: www.iowadnr.com/water/tmdlwqa/tmdl/publicnotice.html
Comments will be accepted through July 15 and can be submitted by:

- E-mail: danelle.haake@dnr.state.ia.us
- Phone: Danelle Haake at (515) 281-6064
- Mail: Danelle Haake, care of Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319

For more information, contact Danelle Haake at (515) 281-6064.